REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **January 4, 2005**, the examiner reviewed claims 25-51. Claims 25, 34, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zizzi (USPN 6,185,681, hereinafter "Zizzi") in view of McBride (USPN 6,292,899 B1, hereinafter "McBride"). Claims 26-28, 30-33, 35-37, 39-42, 44-46, and 48-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zizzi in view of McBride, and further in view of Sutter (USPN 5,924,094, hereinafter "Sutter"). Claims 29, 38, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zizzi in view of McBride, and further in view of Sutter, and further in view of Brogliatti et al. (USPN 6,564,225 B1, hereinafter "Brogliatti").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claims 25, 34, and 43 were rejected as being unpatentable over Zizzi in view of McBride. Applicant respectfully points out that Zizzi teaches **encrypting documents in a file system** (see Zizzi column 4, lines 9-20; column 4, lines 23-26; column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 18; column 7, line 64 to column 8 line 6; column 8, lines 32-43; column 8, line 54 to column 9, line 7; Figure 3-5).

In contrast, the present invention is directed to **encrypting individual columns within a database system** (see page 8, lines 4-12; page 10, lines 2-25; page 11, lines 1-11; FIG. 2, 5-6 of the instant application). Metadata is used to indicate which columns in a table are encrypted (see page 8, lines 4-12 of the instant application). There is nothing in Zizzi or McBride, either separately or in concert, that suggests encrypting individual columns within a database system. Encrypting individual columns within a database system is beneficial because only columns containing sensitive data need to be encrypted, thereby reducing the overhead of having to encrypt all columns in a table.
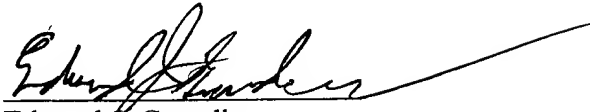
11

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 25, 34, and 43 to clarify that the present invention stores data in a portion of the database system that has been designated as encrypted, *wherein the portion of the database system that has been designated as encrypted is one or more columns of the database system.* Applicant has also amended claims 26, 35, and 44. These amendments find support on page 8, lines 4-12; page 10, lines 2-25; page 11, lines 1-11; FIG. 2, 5-6 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 25, 34, and 43 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 26-33, which depend upon claim 25, claims 35-42, which depend upon claim 34, and claims 44-51, which depend upon claim 43, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By ~~Edward J. Grundler~~

Edward J. Grundler
Registration No. 47, 615

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Edward J. Grundler
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
2820 Fifth Street
Davis, CA 95616-2914
Tel: (530) 759-1663
FAX: (530) 759-1665